

Mr Raymond A. West
622 W. Division
Springfield Mo.

May 13, 1976

Dear Mr West,

In regards to the gasoline smell in your home, it is the opinion of this office that you will always have smell entering your home as long as you do not have a proper trap on your bathtub. Without a trap on your bathtub you are making for an extremely dangerous situation. Although gasoline should not be in the sewer line, and we are working to at the present time, if your properly installed you would not be of the gasoline smell ^{entering your home} ~~entering your home~~ noxious gases that might be present in the sewer line, Due to the fact that the plumbing in your bathtub not properly installed there is no way to.

December 2, 1985

Mr. Raymond A. West
1622 W. Division
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Dear Mr. West:

On November 25, 1985 personnel from the Fire Department and Public Works Department responded to your complaint of a gasoline smell in your house. Fire Marshal Dan Thurman determined during his investigation that the odor was entering the house through the bathtub drain. Investigation by the Public Works personnel revealed no apparent trap on the bathtub drain.

The fact that gases are entering your residence from the sewer indicates that potentially serious health and safety hazards exist on your premises. Some of the most common dangerous gases that exist in the sewer and their hazards (from the Manual of Instruction for Sewage Treatment Plant Operators) are:

Carbon Monoxide - Colorless, odorless, non-irritating. Flammable, explosive. Hemoglobin of the blood has a strong affinity for the gas, causing oxygen starvation in the tissues.

Hydrogen - Colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-poisonous. Flammable, explosive. Propagates flame rapidly. Acts mechanically to deprive the tissues of oxygen. A simple asphyxiant.

Methane - Colorless, odorless, non-poisonous. Flammable, explosive.

Hydrogen Sulfide - "Rotten egg" odor in small concentrations. Colorless, poisonous. Flammable, explosive.

Carbon Dioxide - Colorless, odorless, non-flammable. Not generally present in dangerous amounts unless there is a deficiency of oxygen.

There are, of course, many other substances that can be present in the sanitary sewer.

1622 W. Division

Mr. Raymond A. West

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However, plumbing with all proper appurtenants and in good repair is designed to prevent sewer gas from venting back into the building. The lack of a trap on the bathtub drain has been identified as the source of the gasoline odors in your residence. Steps should be taken to correct this problem.

If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours truly,



Robert E. Corson
Water Pollution Control Inspector III
Surveillance & Enforcement

REC:js

cc: Robert R. Schaefer, P.E., Superintendent of Sanitary Services
Henry Cole, P.E., Sanitary Engineer
File—

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION OF FILE

DATE 11-27-85

DEPARTMENT _____

Re: 1622 W. Division - Gasoline smell in house

At 2:55 P.M. 11-25-85 this office received a call from Fire Marshal Dan Thurman. Mr. Thurman indicated that the Fire Dept. had been contacted by the resident at 1622 W. Division with a problem of gasoline smell in their house. Mr. Thurman said that after investigating the complaint, he had determined that the gasoline odor was entering the house through the bathtub drain. He was obtaining an 18% L.E.L. at the bathtub drain. Mr. Thurman stated that he checked the sanitary sewer M.H. directly behind 1622 W. Division and obtained a 5% L.E.L. reading. He then checked the first M.H. each direction and obtained a 0% L.E.L.

Karen Chandler and I immediately went to the problem area and checked the following M.H.'s:

Wye Map L-7	M.H. #39	0%
Wye Map L-7	M.H. #37	0-5%
Wye Map L-8	M.H. #1	0%
Wye Map L-8	M.H. #2	0%
Wye Map L-8	M.H. #3	0%

We contacted the residents at the above address and they informed us that the gasoline odor was coming in through their bathtub drain. We told the residents that we thought the problem with the bathtub drain was that there was no trap on the drain. (These people have had a similar problem about 7 or 8 years ago and through our investigation we determined that the bathtub drain did not have a proper trap.) We informed the residents that if the drain did not have a trap on it, that they were creating a very bad or unhealthy situation.

We contacted Mr. Schaefer about the problem and he said that we should send a letter to the residents at 1622 W. Division and inform them of the health hazards and recommend that they correct the plumbing problem.

Karen and I again checked the M.H. behind 1622 W. Division and obtained a 0% L.E.L. on 11-26-85 at 9:15 A.M.

This matter was referred to Mr. Bob Corson of this office

SIGNED _____ Gene Pabst

1622 W. Division